May 30
1918

TELEGRAMS:
"ALLEDORA, WESTRAND,
LONDON."

1917 CLUB
4, GERRARD STREET, W. 1.

Dearest,

I have just bought you a present which may be slightly better than Rebecca West — at any rate the subject is more in your line. However, I'm writing chiefly to avoid joining in the general conversation with Nick & Alix. Nick seems to be going to Hampshire — not Eastbourne. I had a typical letter from Sayan saying that Barbara had an instinct that I was annoyed with them, & as Barbara's instincts are always right, he must apologize; & so on —

Let me know when Duncans &
Bunny's plans are settled.
When Leonard asked me the
question which Lytton may ask
I said I was completely ignorant,
& quite convinced him, so I
think it'd be perfectly safe.
NYPL
Nelly remarked today that
she thought being a nurse was
as nice as being a cook. —
She told me she liked taking
a baby from the mouth, &
had managed 3. However
do be discreet They would
never forgive me if Ginnie
heard anything.

Do take care

Yours

J.

HAMILL 12/29/69

19 E

Dearest,
I have been to a new agency - have heard of two quite likely housepairs wanted who want to be in the country. (permanent) The man says that he thinks he can be family certain of getting for before July 1st. Shall I do the whole business - 2
He has also a housemaid

& a boarder in command, but I suppose you only want the one.

I shall probably see her tomorrow or the day after. I am writing in a p.o to catch post.

Mr. Lucas & Mrs Hunt were pretty hopeless — write any suggestions at once.

NYPL

YB

If its necessary to take her tomorrow I shall risk it but I don't suppose it will be.

HAMILL 12/29/69

? 10 June 1918

1

Monday.

Duarest,

I didn't speak to Nelly at once, as Leonard was rather doubtful about it — However, I've just spoken to her, & suggested that she & Lollie should go to you on the 1st July & stay till ~~the~~ October. They were on the point of offering to go themselves, & are very much excited & pleased. So I don't think there'll be any difficulty about that. I told her you were going to have a baby; I didn't say anything about staying on & becoming your nurse, as Leonard is doubtful of the experiment from our point of view. I think that we should at any rate see how it answers temporarily before we give them up entirely. Would you therefore agree to say nothing to them or to anyone else about

staying on permanently & treat it as a purely temporary ~~expedient~~ arrangement?

We should know how it worked from our point of view by July - & we could discuss it when we come down in August - But until we are more decided we think it most important not to unsettle them by suggesting something which we may never seriously think of doing.

Kelly seems quite ready to do house work or cook or anything. or turn the whole house - Perhaps you'd tell me to her.

We made £68 by the sale, but I don't know whether we told the Thackeray's or not. I hope not - If so, it's pretty bad -

Ever yr affte
V.W.

Yrs is waiting in hall.

We also think we ought to make it understood that we can have them back in case of illness or emergency -
You'd better warn them -

HAMILL 12/29/69

1918 —

11 June 1918

Hogarth.

Tuesday.

Dearest,

I've just come in & found your telegram. I can't think why you haven't already had my letter, as I posted it myself yesterday afternoon. I suppose you'll have had it by the time you get this, so I needn't repeat all I said. I put off speaking to the servants because after we came back I got a bad throat & Leonard said it was out of the question to do without a maid for ~~ever~~ a while, in fact I thought it was hopeless. However, he gradually came round to the idea, & I have now, I think, got a daily woman to do for us. I hope you don't mind having them ~~at once~~ quite, but that will give us a month in which to see how it works here. I haven't said anything to Nelly about our not being able to afford to keep them, as Leonard thought it would be better to wait, though I don't really agree. I find today that they're both rather suspicious that we do mean to get rid

of them permanently & Nelly told me that they counted upon coming back in October. I think she'll want rather careful handling, & I think you'd better say nothing to her about staying on at first. But she's so changeable that one doesn't know what she does want to do. & I'm no doubt that she would stay if we decided against having them. Of course you may think it would be better policy to secure Mr Fords' daughter - Personally I'm very anxious to try another way of living, & our books have been so high lately that I think we must try some change.

NYPL

I've just been meeting Lytton, who is like a newly wedded Bride. He pretends to be mad rather uncomfortable by her fame, but he's obviously in a state of rapture. & he sought after already that he's no time for anything. Clive's giving a party in his honour tonight, but unfortunately I can't go. I've got any amount of things to write to you about, but I've no time now. & there blessed servants want such a lot of discussing. Dear Thy - Nelly said she was very fond of you. & they were both much elated at the prospect of a baby. so I expect you could reduce them in your usual way. & I feel pretty sure I can make my old woman a success. VB.

HAMILL 12/29/69

to go. they said they wouldn't go to you. So it's important to keep up the idea that it's obliging Kelly & that kennedy husband it — or that I'm not involved in it at all —

Thursday

B.

Dearest,

Kelly asked me this morning whether I would say for certain that we would have them back in October. I therefore thought it best to tell her that I didn't think you would want them if they had decided that they couldn't stay more than 3 months. We've had a terrific discussion. Finally they said that they couldn't make up their minds until they had been with you for some time. They say that they might want to stay on or they might not. I thought the only thing to do was to wire & tell you, & leave it to you to decide whether you think the risk is worth running. At the present moment I think they want to stay on with us, but once they were settled I expect they would get attached.

to go. They said they would let you know if it is important to keep up that idle time to oblige Kelly & Hilda Kelly kindly suggested it — or that I'm not involved at all —

Thursday

B.

Dearest,

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From our point of view the position is that we can't in the least tell how our scheme will work. Therefore we feel we must have the right to take them back in October; & in fact they insist that they shall be asked in October what they want to do. Both Leonard & I want to try the experiment, but as you will realise we don't want to feel that we've cut ourselves off for good. Personally I think there is much good servants that some risk is worth running on your part — but it's all very complicated, & you're not in the least bound to have them in ~~October~~ July. You need only write to me when you've made up your mind. (as soon as you can)

I must now rush off to see about my Daily [illegible]. I've been careful not to say a word to Stad. about our wishing them to go. I've said it was entirely your suggestion — directly they thought I wanted them to

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69